



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

January 2019

Letter from the Pastor

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse Christian community that seeks actively to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

—Mission Statement

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Raymond Bonwell
Bridge Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Sharon Parker
Director of Christian Education

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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Friends,

Merry Christmas!

Yes, it is January. And remember, the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” reminds us this liturgical season of Christmastide is twelve days long, and stretches until January 6 – the feast of Epiphany! So again, Merry Christmas!

January will begin an exciting new opportunity for all people to learn and worship together. Christian Education will begin Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for all ages (3 – 103). At 9:15 each Sunday morning, Christian Education staff will be in Fellowship Hall to welcome students in preschool through Grade 12. Classes will be in session from 9:30-10:15.

The Adult Forum is being repurposed for Adult Christian Education. Parents (as adults) are encouraged to participate and demonstrate that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a lifelong process. Families will then be able to worship together at 10:30 a.m.

Worship-time childcare will continue to be available for infants and children up through Grade 2. Following worship, the *entire* community may participate together in fellowship at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday morning Adult Christian Education will focus upon the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. There is no need to prepare for the first meeting on January 6, though we will be reading this together, including series of “blessed” statements, known as the Beatitudes (“blessed are the peacemakers...”).

Another opportunity for adults to model discipleship is to participate in the Adult Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. This fall we have looked at an overview of the Old Testament and concluded with a four week study on the minor prophet Jonah. We will begin again on January 9 at 10:00 a.m. for a four week study on the Doctrine of Election (*this includes the topic of predestination*). We will continue on January 16, 23, and 30.

If you are interested in an evening or weekend Bible Study – if Wednesday mornings do not fit your schedule – please contact pastor@overbrookpresb.org. Please indicate which day /time works better for you.

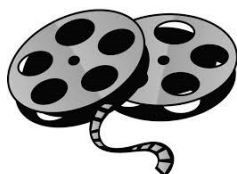
There are other exciting milestones at Overbrook. As mentioned in the bulletins and electronic announcements, your Session

(continued on page 6)

Music

From the Messiah Sing to the two Christmas Eve services, December was a great month for music—and everything else—at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. While we are all enjoying a little post-holiday calm, it's time to take a look at musical events that are coming up this spring:

Sunday, April 7, 3:00 p.m.: The Overbrook Choir will combine with the choirs of Ardmore Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ardmore, to present excerpts from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. We have been blessed with fruitful collaborations among our three choirs, and we are happy to continue this tradition.



Friday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.: Join us for a unique experience at Overbrook! Concert organist David Baskeyfield will accompany a silent movie—while the film is projected to us, he will improvise a complete musical score. He has gained critical international acclaim for his organ playing, having recently won the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montréal, and his concert here is sure to be spectacular.

The music program here provides diverse, fulfilling programs year-round, and I am grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

AN INVITATION TO CONVERSATION

Below is a letter of invitation from Howard Friend, who has been hired as a consultant by OPC. Howard is a Presbyterian minister, congregational consultant, spiritual mentor and preacher. He was a called pastor for thirty years and an interim pastor for five. He is founder and lead consultant of the Parish Empowerment Network through which he has led workshops and retreats for over 150 congregations and non-profit organizations in twenty-five states and four foreign countries. Howard is president of the Karitas Foundation that has led mission trips to Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Jamaica and India and sponsors community-based empowerment-focused projects in several countries, a focus in Mexico. He calls himself a contemplative activist. Howard has written two books and many articles.



Dear Overbrook Church,

My name is Howard Friend. I am a congregational consultant, and the church has hired me to accompany you through this time of transition. I'd love to meet with you.

This has been quite a year and a half for your church. Maybe longer. Times of smooth sailing and times of turbulent waters. Transitions are never easy. Church leaders have invited me to invite you to sign up for forty-five-minute conversations: your thoughts and feelings, your ideas and suggestions, what's being easy and what's being difficult. I am a good listener. What we talk about will be confidential. You can come alone or with up to three others.

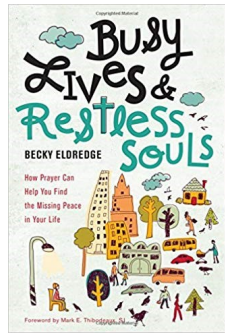
I will take notes during our conversations, gathering and then summarizing what you share, then preparing a report for the church's leadership. Copies of that report will be available upon request.

I plan to be here for the first of these conversations Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019, from 2 to 9 p.m.. for on-the-hour 45-minute conversations. There will be a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour, or you can call the church office to reserve a time. I'd love to have a full day.

I am looking forward to meeting you.

Blessings, Howard Friend

You can also call (484-883-2854) or email (friendhoward148@gmail.com) Howard if you have questions or want to schedule directly with him.



January Book - *Busy Lives, Restless Souls: How Prayer Can Help You find the Missing Peace in Your Life* by Becky Eldredge

Meeting - Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 12:00 pm at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Bring your lunch; dessert will be provided.

This is a book club of diverse membership involving members of several Presbyterian churches, including Overbrook. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alyce Marsh at 215-472-7886.



Come join Peter Seidel, art teacher and Overbrook member, to consider the reason for the season! *The Art of Advent: Seven Centuries of Great Sacred Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.* Sunday, January 6, 2019, 1:30 to 3:00 pm ("Pay what you wish" Sunday). Please gather on the 2nd floor balcony of the Great Hall in the museum at 1:30 pm.



Coffee Hour for January

We are in need of Coffee Hour Hosts for the Month of January. This is an highly valued ministry and can be easily accomplished with a group of two or more. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour instructions are available on the OPC web site and in the church kitchen (on the microwave). For more information please contact Raelyn Harman at 610-331-8972 or Artia Benjamin. Thank you.

Praise and Thanksgiving!



Advent and Christmas at Overbrook saw spirits lifted, hearts opened, and pews filled. The joy of the season was a gift from God...and many hands accepted the call to do God's work. Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the legions of volunteers, of all ages, who served as planners, Sanctuary decorators, vocalists, instrumentalists, carolers, liturgists, narrators, pageant participants, readers, Advent candle lighters, greeters, acolytes, costumers, gingerbread house "architects", ushers...and those who knew where all the light switches were located. We offer special appreciation to Pastor Raymond Bonwell who, in addition to leading four services in five days, enthusiastically shared in OPC's Christmas preparations...from toting scenery, to hanging greenery, to helping with the dishes.

May God bless you all...and may the coming year be filled with abundant peace and joy!

Christian Education (continued on page 4)

OPC Youth New Year's Celebration
Saturday, January 5, 2019, 5:00-8:00pm.

Come celebrate the start of the new year with dinner, games, and a movie! We will be celebrating in the newly "refurbished" Youth Room!



Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 3

Cheer on your favorite Super Bowl contender...and help our OPC Youth fight hunger in the Greater Philadelphia area. Following worship on Sunday, February 5, our youth will be stationed in the Wistar Morris Room with two soup pots, each pot representing a 2017 Super Bowl contender. By making a donation in one (or both) of the pots, you will be supporting a nationwide youth initiative to combat hunger. The first 50 "visitors" to the "Souper Bowl" table will receive a special soup tasting. In addition to generating funds for this worthy cause, it will be fun to see if OPC donations can predict the outcome of the game!

A New Year...a New Vision for Christian Education

Can you envision a time and place where families can worship together and where children and youth can participate fully in the worship service? Can you envision a time and place where Sunday School teachers are able to remain in worship throughout the entire service, where youth can serve in worship leadership, and teachers and confirmed youth are able to participate in congregational meetings?

That place is Overbrook, and the time will be Sunday, January 6! With God's guidance, the start of the new year will bring a non-conflicting time schedule for Sunday School...one that will bring greater opportunities for the faith formation of our children and youth, and enriched program offerings for adults. Beginning on January 6, Sunday School will be in session each week from 9:30-10:15 AM. Sunday School staff will be in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 AM to welcome arriving students. Following the morning greeting, students will proceed to classes at 9:30 am. Adult Christian Education will meet each Sunday at 9:15 AM in the Chapel; childcare will be provided.

At Overbrook, Christian Education is for all ages...please come join us!

—Sharon Parker



MLK Day at Overbrook: Monday, January 21, 9:00-11:30 AM

With "We are all one humanity" as our 2019 theme, the focus of OPC's Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be to serve the broader community...in a spirit of unity, respect and compassion. Activity stations set-up throughout the church will include: Cooking for shut-ins, assembling breakfast bags for the elderly; making baby blankets for teen parents; expressing gratitude (designing thank you cards for military personnel stationed abroad and for Philadelphia first responders); creating the Memorial to the Lost (tee shirt memorial to those who lost their lives in 2018 through the use of illegal guns); assembling care kits for women and children in safe shelters; packing breakfast bags for the elderly; respecting OPC (a work project designed to "refresh/restore" our church building).



Overbrook is a registered Philadelphia MLK Day of Service site, and all are welcome to participate. Please join us at 9:00 AM on January 21, as we work together to serve our broader community. There will be service opportunities for all ages. We request that preschool and elementary students be accompanied by an adult. To sign-up to serve, please visit the OPC website or sign-up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship.

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to a busy year.

We continue to collect **Comfort Cases**. If you would like to fill a case for a child in foster care, contact Nancy Gilhool for more information. The last day for the Comfort Cases is **Monday, January 21**.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Volunteering is Monday, January 21. There will be a lot going on at the church. We will prepare the t-shirts and install the Memorial to those Lost to gun violence in Philadelphia. Others will prepare meals for those who are food insecure. There will be a variety projects for every interest and age group. Plan to join us and bring your friends. *(See the article under Christian Education for more info.)*

This year we are adding additional opportunities to prepare a **Life Center** meal. They will continue to be on Tuesdays, but we will add some additional dates. We will prepare the first Life Center meal on **Tuesday, January 29**. Contact Nancy Gilhool and Janet Bowker if you would like to help out.

We will once again sponsor a MobilePack for **Feed My Starving Children**. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 27** to join us at Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School and help us pack meals for the world's most vulnerable children. There will be several fundraising events leading up to the MobilePack and we hope you will be a part of them.

Our next meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 27 at 12:00 in the Chapel**. Please join us while we plan our upcoming activities for 2019.



You came, you shopped, you helped! Many thanks to all who participated in the **Fair Trade Market**. Through your purchases, we were able to help craftspeople throughout the world earn a living wage for their products.

Thank you also to the numerous people who helped to make the annual Fair Trade Market possible and a great success.

Save the date(s)!

We are looking forward to another OPC community event to bring everyone together for a good cause. Please save **Saturday, February 2** for a festive fundraising event for Feed My Starving Children! Details to come.

Also, the Care at the Crossroads MobilePack is **Saturday, April 27**. Watch for more information about how you can help and sign-ups for the big day.

Thanks, as always, for your support.



Deacons

Happy January Birthdays

1/1	Martin Gasonu	1/25	Nahla Thompson Nyssa Thompson
1/2	Henry Garcia Raelyn Harman Janet Lovely Gordon Mayne	1/26	Kempley Bryant
1/7	Brad Biedermann	1/27	Raegan Laidley Mike Rottinger
1/8	Elienne Paul Ellie von Andreae	1/28	Zubin Fiorillo
1/10	Gretchen Boger	1/29	Robert May
1/17	Tara von Andreae	1/30	Phyllis Jackson
1/21	Arleen Haynes-Laing	1/31	Cheryl Davis Suchita Fiorillo
1/23	BK Kothari		



Prayer List

- ◆ Lynda Johnson is scheduled to have ambulatory surgery for the following dates: January 11th, January 25th and February 4th.
- ◆ Prayers for continued recovery for Gwen Harden as she recovers from gallstone surgery.
- ◆ Ernestine Harris, mother-in-law of Lynn Pompa, is undergoing several cardiac procedures.
- ◆ Dick Williamson is undergoing medical testing.
- ◆ Luis Wong is now in the Salvation Army Rehab center in Roxborough.
- ◆ The Rev. David McMillan is recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Terri Carter's is home recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ Wayne Gage, Chris Gage's father, is recovering from a heart procedure.
- ◆ Jessica Canning, a friend of Eileen Wiggins, is in hospice following brain surgery.
- ◆ John Nathaniel is still recovering from a stroke.
- ◆ Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns.

*Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names or concerns to this list.
Mike can be reached by email, mike.rottinger@comcast.net.*

We give thanks for the service of Davorka Sabljak, Ellen Valudes and Stephanie Morris as they complete their terms as Deacons.



HUFF-PAUL, Linda

Welcome, new member Linda Huff-Paul! Linda arrived at Overbrook Presbyterian in March 2017, after exploring a number of other churches in the area. Attracted to the spirit, warmth, and diversity of the congregation, Linda is happy to now be an "official" member of the OPC community. She serves on the Mission & Outreach Committee, as part of her passion for community service. Her involvement with a number of local community theaters inspired her to become a regular staffer for Narberth Community Theater's Refreshment Concession at OPC. Linda is a full-time editor in the financial services industry, a freelance writing coach, and an occasional English professor. She lives in Rosemont with her husband, Kirk, and their cat, Moon.

Letter from the Pastor (continued from page 1)

has engaged the Rev. Howard Friend, a consultant with the Parish Empowerment Network, to do a wellness check-up as Overbrook prepares for the next chapter in leaderships. And the results of the December 16, 2018 congregational election will be put into effect at worship on January 13, 2019, with the ordination and installation of new officers (elders and deacons).

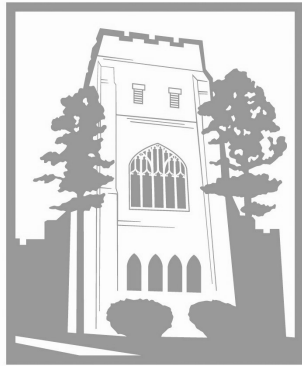
Keep the Faith,

Raymond

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Looking Ahead: <i>February 2—FMSC Fundraiser at OPC</i> <i>February 3—Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship</i> <i>February 16—Prayer Breakfast-9:30 am</i>		1	2 10:00 am Bible Study	3 2:00 pm Small Group with Howard Friend 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	4	5 8:00 am Men's Group 5:00 pm OPC Youth New Year Celebration
6 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hr. 1:00 pm The Art of Advent Tour, Phila. Museum of Art	7 No Junior Choir	8 1:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Finance Committee	9 10:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Property Committee	10 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	11	12
13 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hr. 12:00 pm Personnel Committee	14 5:30 pm Junior Choir Rehearsal/ Dinner	15 7:00 pm Session	16 10:00 am Bible Study	17 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	18 11:30 am RPM Cafe	19
20 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hr. 12:00 pm Christian Education Committee	21 9:00 am MLK Day of Service No Junior Choir	22	23 10:00 am Bible Study	24 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	25	26
27 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hr. 12:00 pm Mission & Outreach	28 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Junior Choir Rehearsal/ Dinner 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Group	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	1	2 8:00 am Men's Group 6:00 pm FMSC Fundraiser at OPC
3 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting followed by Coffee Hour	4 5:30 pm Junior Choir Rehearsal/ Dinner	Community Support Group Meetings @ OPC Every Sunday beginning at 8:00 pm—AA (Wistar Morris Room) and Al-Anon (Chapel) Every Monday beginning at 8:00 pm—Overeaters Anonymous (Chapel) Every Wednesday beginning at 8:00 pm—AA (Wistar Morris Room)				

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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www.overbrookpresb.org

Upcoming Worship Services

January 6, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord

Lectionary: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Ron Homer

January 20, 2019

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary: Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Noble Brigham

January 13, 2019

Baptism of the Lord

(Ordination and Installation of Officers)

Lectionary: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Elizabeth Cosgriff

January 27, 2019

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Lainie Blodgett